

The background of the cover is a traditional East Asian ink wash painting. In the upper left, a figure in a green and black suit is shown in mid-air, performing a backflip. In the lower center, a samurai in a red and black kimono stands on a rocky shore, holding a long staff and a sword. The foreground is filled with concentric, dotted circles representing ripples in water. In the upper right, a traditional Japanese pagoda sits atop a misty mountain. The overall style is a blend of modern comic book art with traditional Japanese ink painting.

DEADPOOL'S

Art of War

David – Koblish – Staples

MARVEL

DEADPOOL'S

Art of War

Deadpool said: The *Art of War* is of vital importance to making me a ton of money, and I like money.

On a recent trip to the past I whacked a Chinese warlord who was writing a book and I didn't want it to go to waste... So I, ya know, appropriated it. But before I can start cashing in the royalty checks, my publisher says it needs a "new relevance". So, I thought, what better way to make *war* relevant than to *start* the most massive war in history!?

So with a few tips from *my* book, I helped Loki cream his bro Thor and conquer Asgard. And now he's taking the fight to Earth! Unfortunately I kinda let slip that I'm trying to push my book, and Loki threw me in jail. Well, un*Loki*ly for him, I happen to be a master lock-picker...

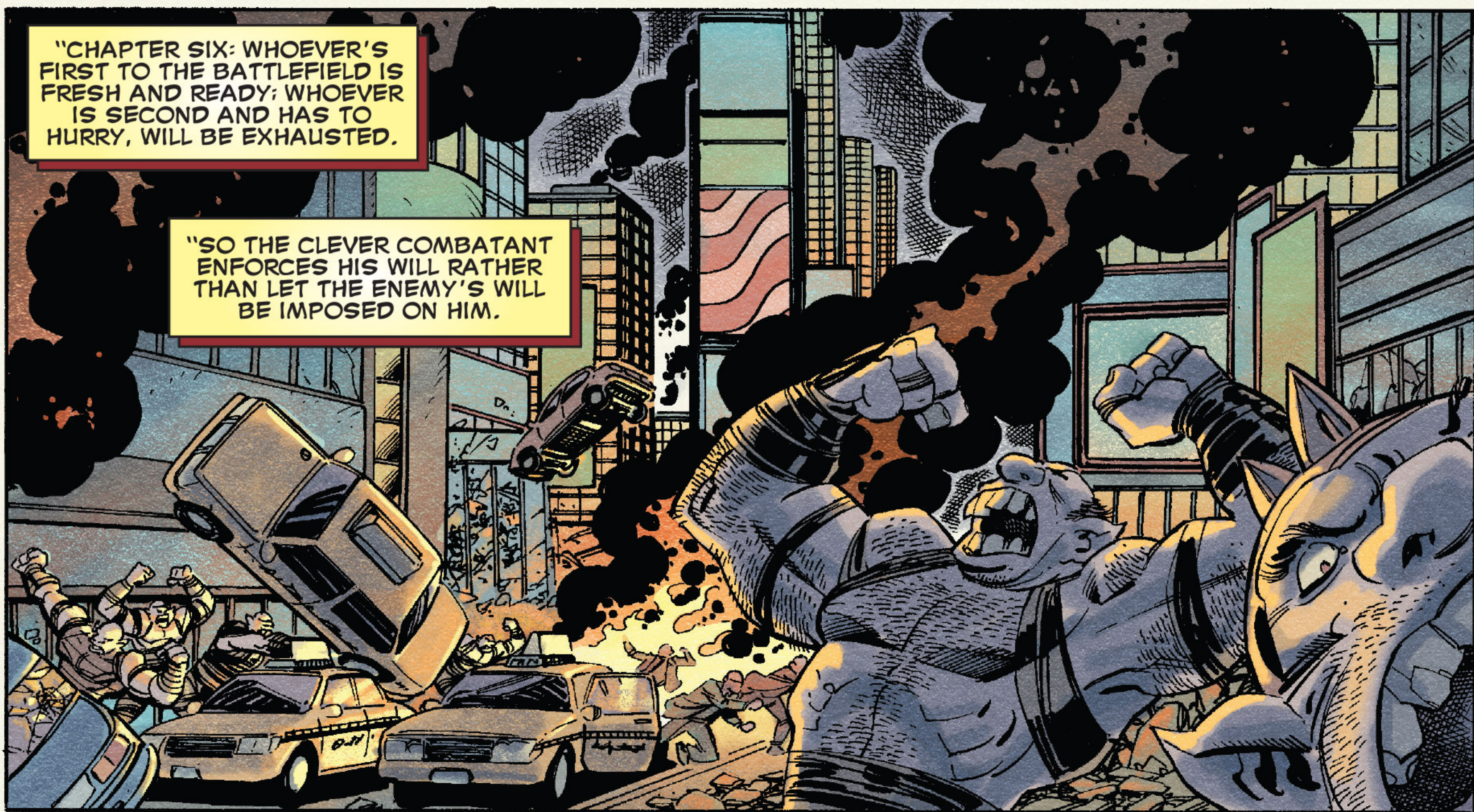
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SPECIAL THANKS TO RAUNAK

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"CHAPTER SIX: WHOEVER'S FIRST TO THE BATTLEFIELD IS FRESH AND READY; WHOEVER IS SECOND AND HAS TO HURRY, WILL BE EXHAUSTED.

"SO THE CLEVER COMBATANT ENFORCES HIS WILL RATHER THAN LET THE ENEMY'S WILL BE IMPOSED ON HIM.



"SHOW UP PLACES THE ENEMY HAS TO DEFEND.



"GO QUICKLY TO PLACES YOU'RE NOT EXPECTED. YOU WILL SUCCEED IF YOU ATTACK PLACES THAT ARE UNDEFENDED."

WHAT'RE WE DOING HERE?

NO ONE WAS EXPECTING US HERE! IT'S UNDEFENDED!

WELL, NO SURPRISE. WE'RE IN FREAKING QUEENS. WHO INVADES QUEENS?



WHO WOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
IT POSSIBLE THAT
SUCH AS I WOULD
BE RULING
ASGARD?

THEN AGAIN,
WHO ELSE BUT
HELA, GODDESS OF
THE UNDERWORLD,
WOULD LOKI TRUST
WITH THE THRONE
IN HIS
ABSENCE.

ENJOY YOUR
TIME, CREATURE.
IT WILL NOT BE
LONG IN ITS
ENDURANCE.

INDEED, SIF?
AND WITH ODIN
AND THOR IMPRISONED,
WHO WILL SEEK TO
OVERTHROW MINE
INFLUENCE, EH?

YOU? THE
WARRIORS THREE,
MAYHAP?

PERHAPS
I WILL HAVE
SOMETHING TO
SAY ABOUT
IT.

"THE ENEMY MIGHT
HAVE SUPERIOR NUMBERS,
BUT YOU MAY BE ABLE
TO PREVENT A FIGHT."

AS THOU
CAN SEE, ODIN
AND THOR ARE
NO LONGER
IMPRISONED.

I'M FREE,
TOO!

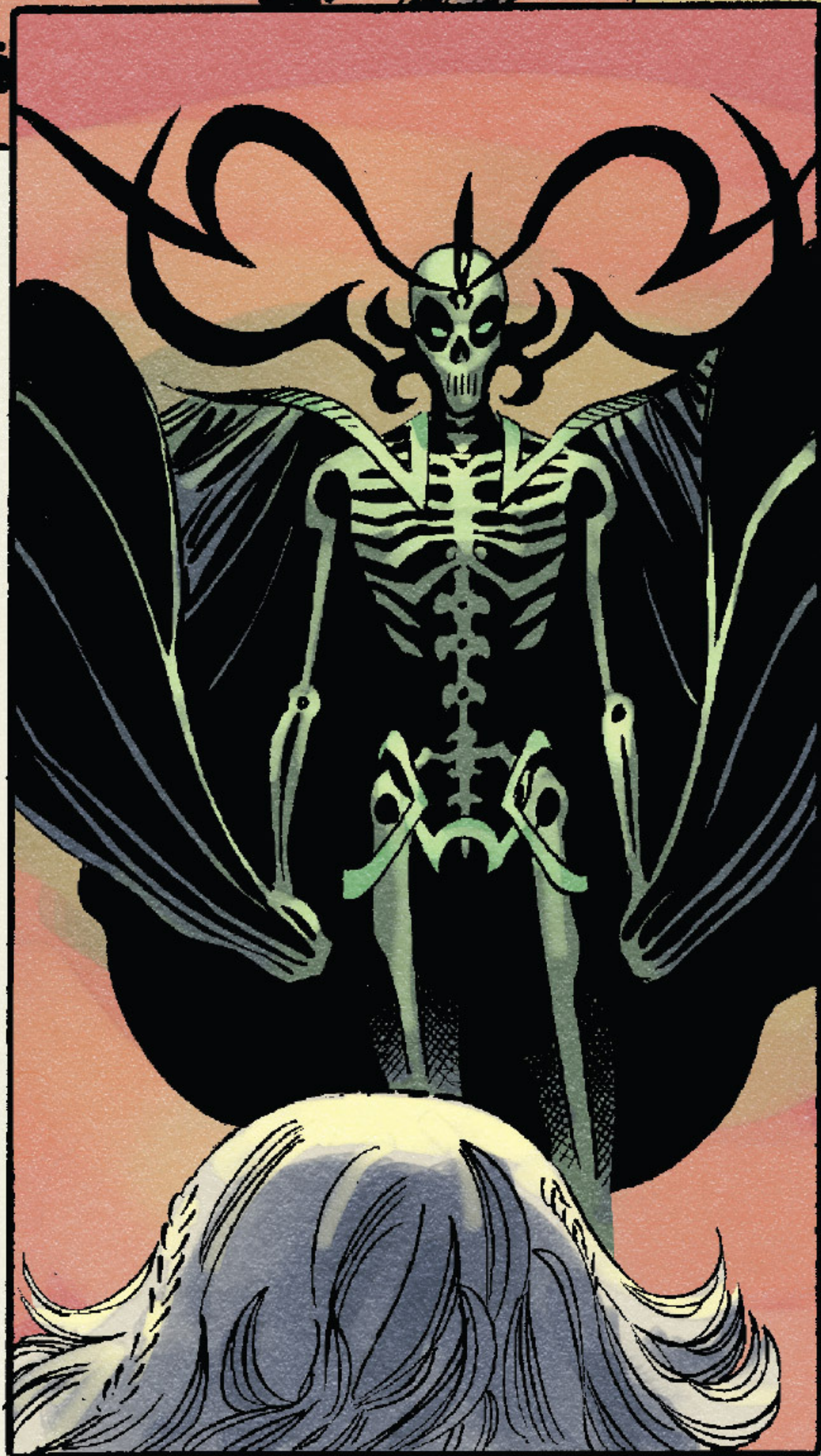
no one
cares.

IF THOU
DOST WISH TO
FIGHT, BY ALL
MEANS, LIFT A
HAND AGAINST
ME.

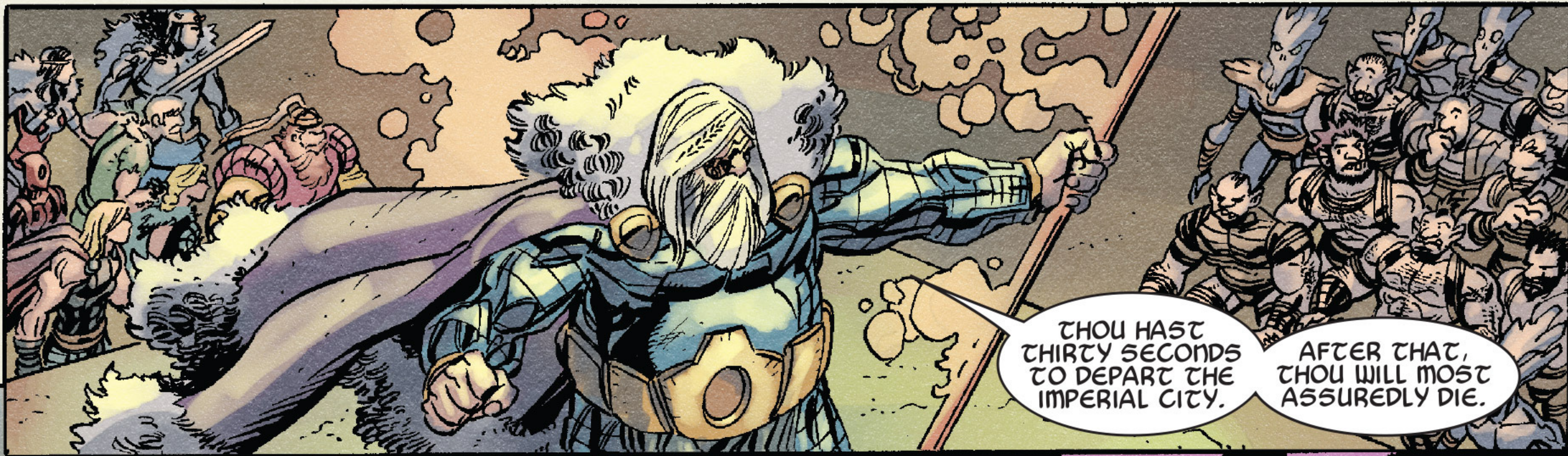
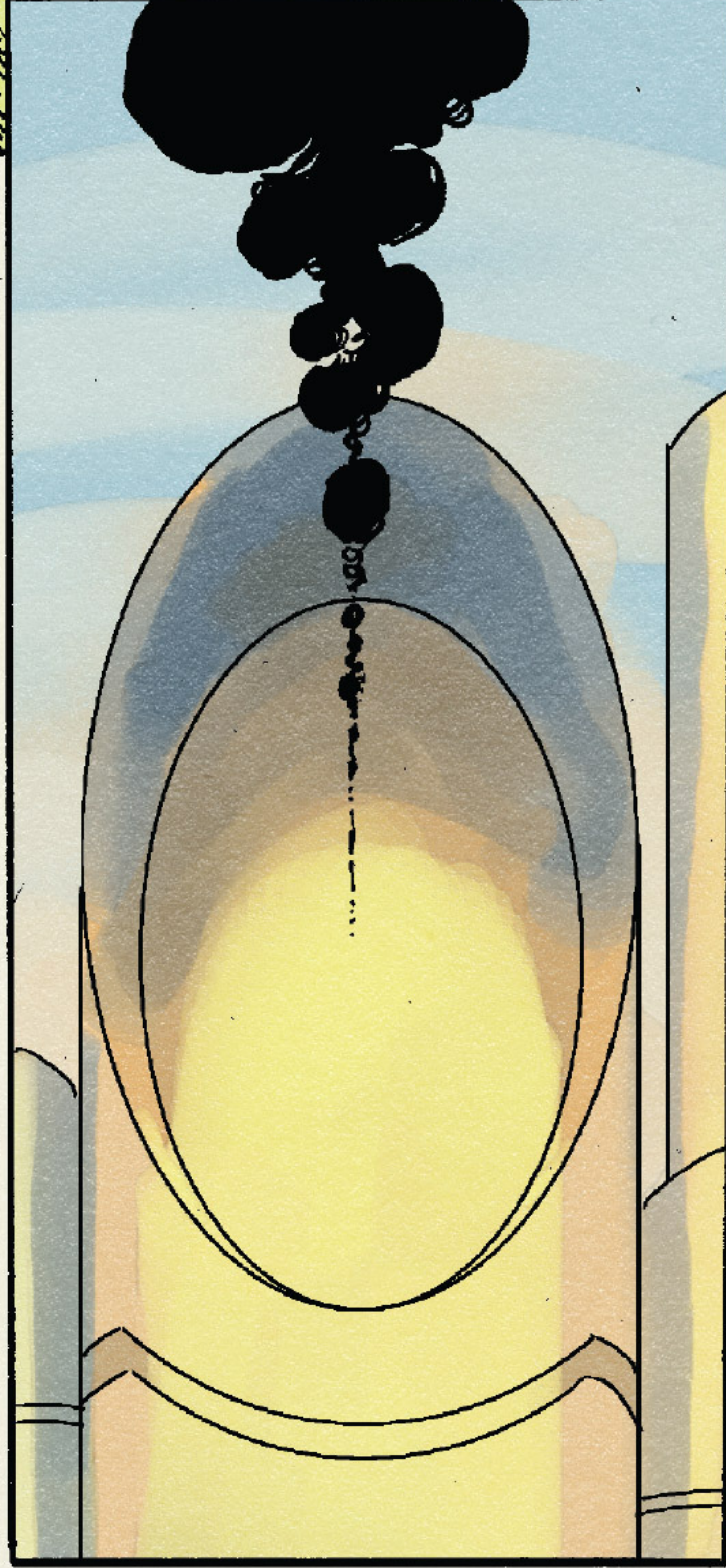
I WARN YOU,
THOUGH: IT WILL
NOT GO WELL
FOR THEE.

IT IS
THY MOVE,
HELA.

...



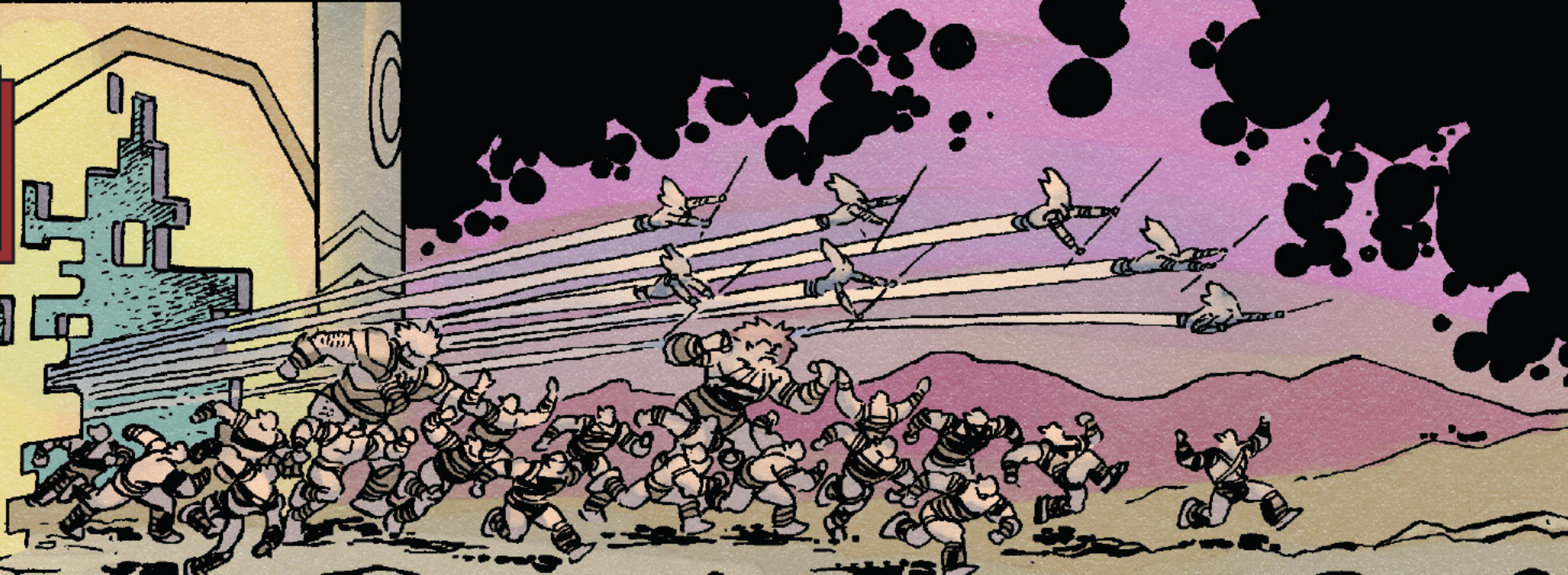
ANOTHER
TIME, PERHAPS.

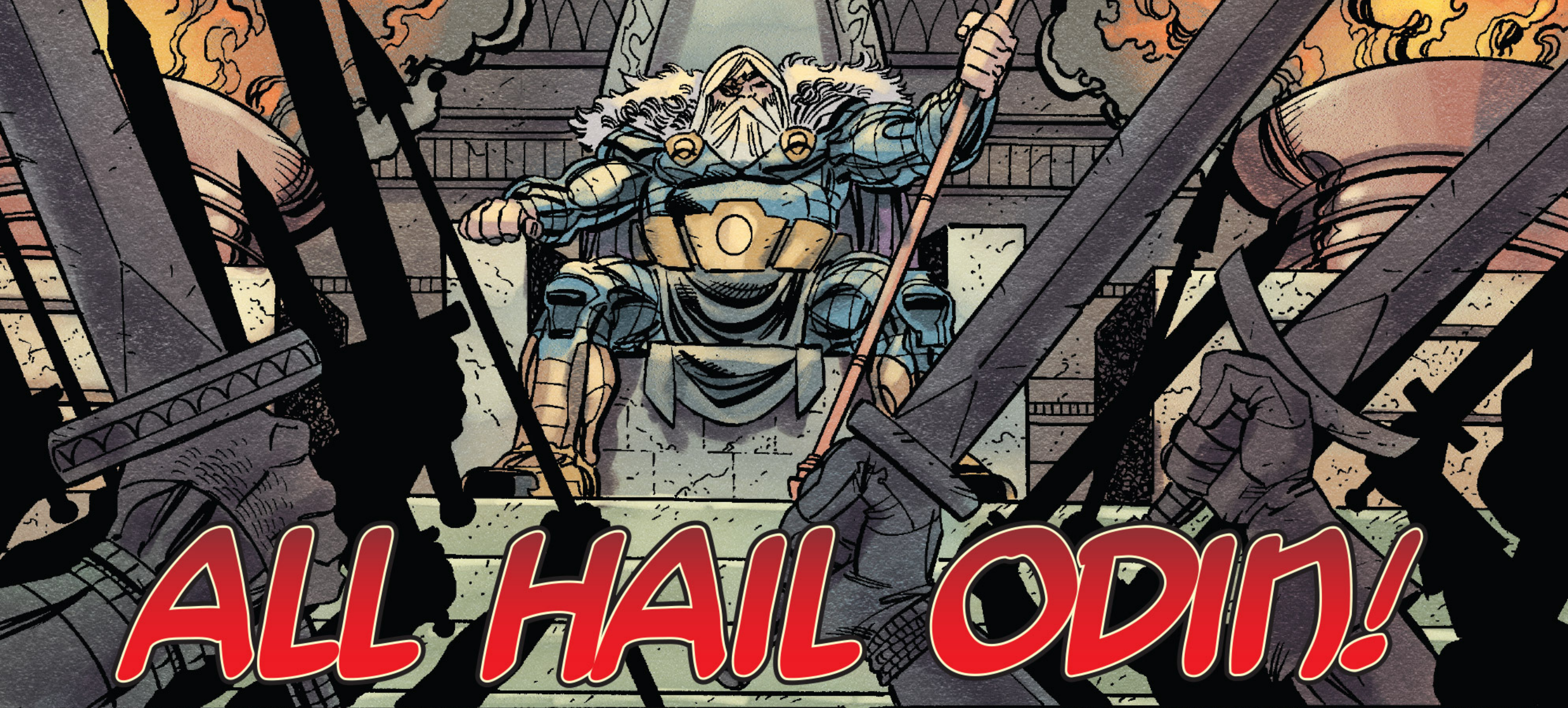


THOU HAST
THIRTY SECONDS
TO DEPART THE
IMPERIAL CITY.

AFTER THAT,
THOU WILL MOST
ASSUREDLY DIE.

"COMPARE THE ENEMY'S
ARMY WITH YOURS SO YOU
CAN KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE
PLENTY OF STRENGTH AND
WHEN YOU DON'T."





ALL HAIL ODIN!



WHERE IS LOKI? HAVE HIM BROUGHT BEFORE ME SO THAT I MIGHT METE OUT HIS PUNISHMENT.

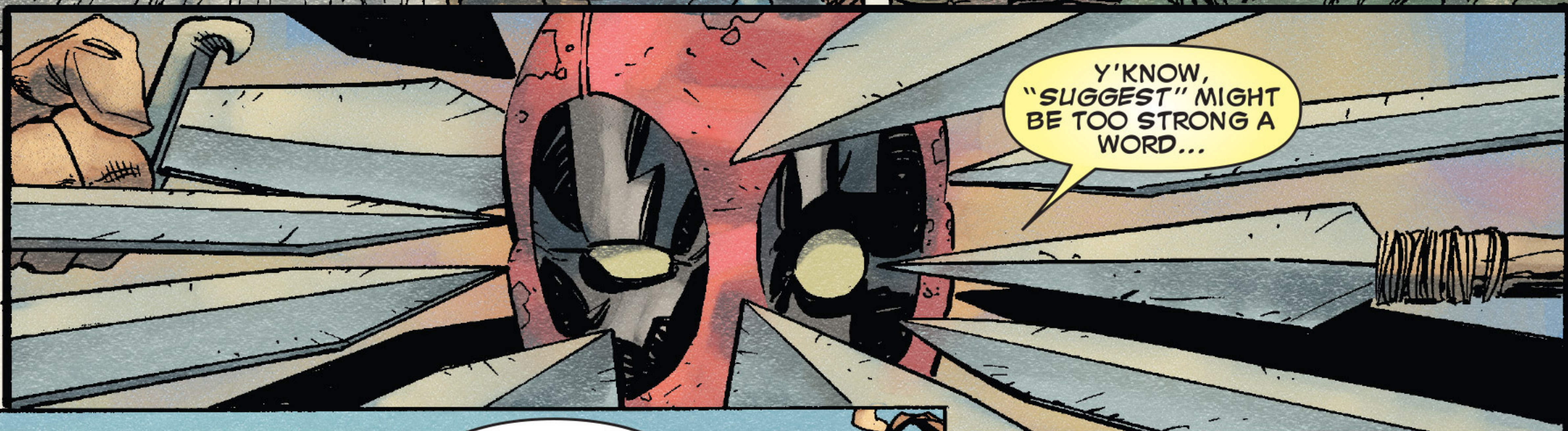
HE IS NOT HERE, GREAT ONE. HONESTLY, WE'VE NO IDEA WHERE HE AND HIS ARMY HAVE GONE.



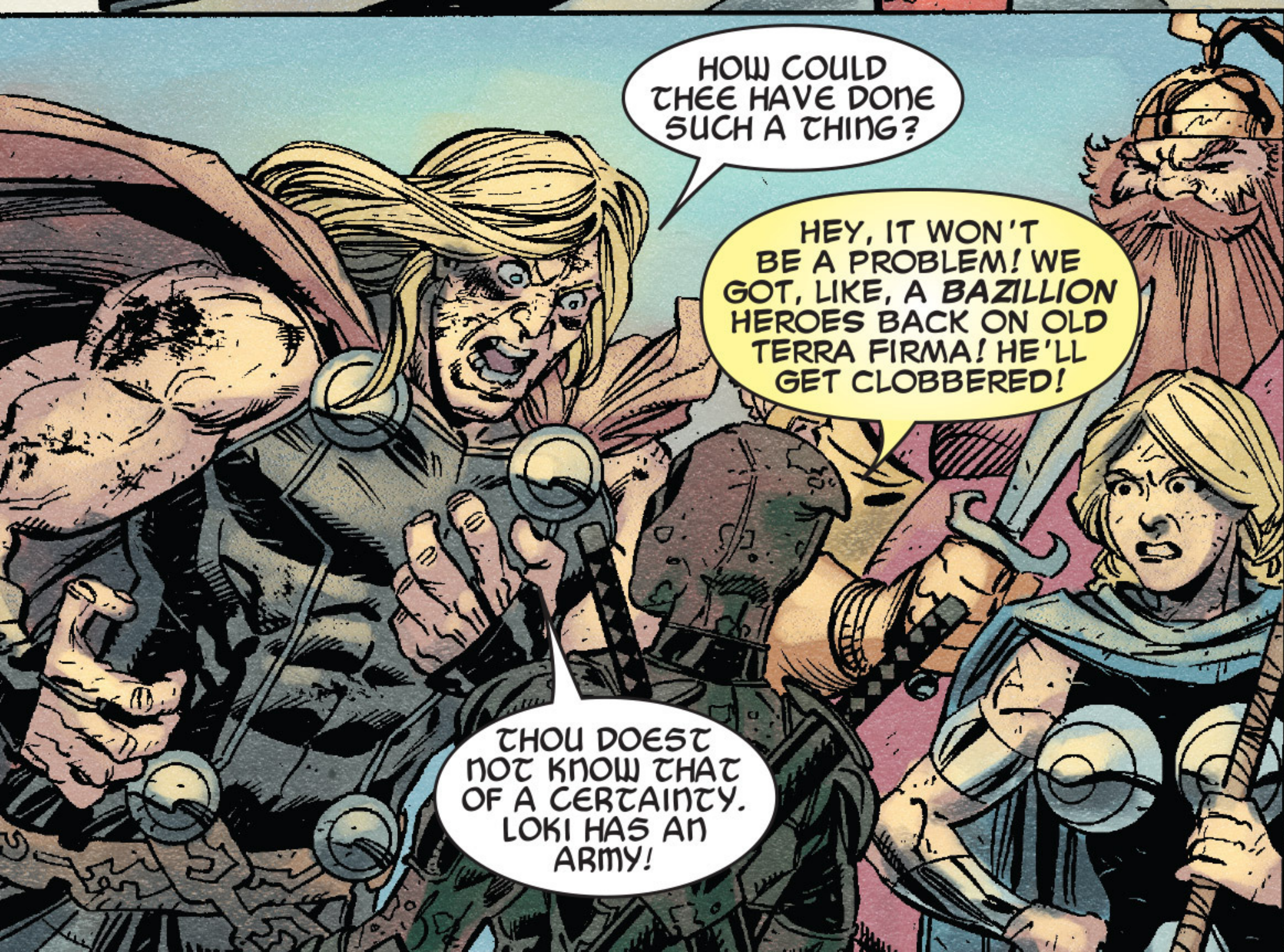
ACTUALLY, I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S ON EARTH.

I SUGGESTED HE GO THERE...

WHY MIDGARD?



Y'KNOW, "SUGGEST" MIGHT BE TOO STRONG A WORD...



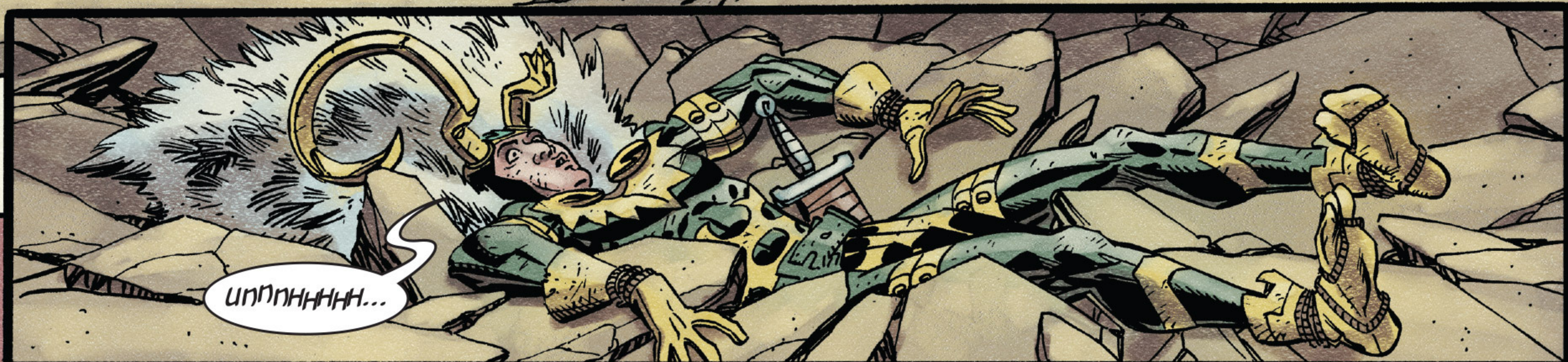
HOW COULD THEE HAVE DONE SUCH A THING?

HEY, IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM! WE GOT, LIKE, A BAZILLION HEROES BACK ON OLD TERRA FIRMA! HE'LL GET CLOBBERED!

THOU DOES NOT KNOW THAT OF A CERTAINTY. LOKI HAS AN ARMY!



WE HAVE A HULK.





"CHAPTER SEVEN: IN WAR, THE GENERAL GETS HIS COMMANDS FROM THE SOVEREIGN."

NOW WHAT?!

DESTROY HIM, MY MINIONS!

WITH DEMONIC FORCES OVERRUNNING THE SURFACE WORLD--

WHAT BETTER TIME FOR THE ARMIES OF THE MOLE MAN TO STRIKE!

TAKE HIM, I SAY!

"NOTHING'S MORE DIFFICULT THAN TACTICAL MANEUVERING.

"MANEUVERING WITH AN ARMY IS ADVANTAGEOUS; WITH AN UNDISCIPLINED MULTITUDE, HOWEVER...

"...IT CAN BE DISADVANTAGEOUS.



"ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE, THE SPOKEN WORD DOESN'T CARRY. SO HAVE FLAGS AND DRUMS; THAT WAY THE EYES AND EARS OF YOUR ARMY ARE FOCUSED ON ONE PARTICULAR POINT."

"THIS IS THE ART OF HANDLING LARGE MASSES OF MEN."

"A SOLDIER'S SPIRIT IS KEENEST IN DAYTIME. BY NOONDAY IT STARTS TO FLAG..."

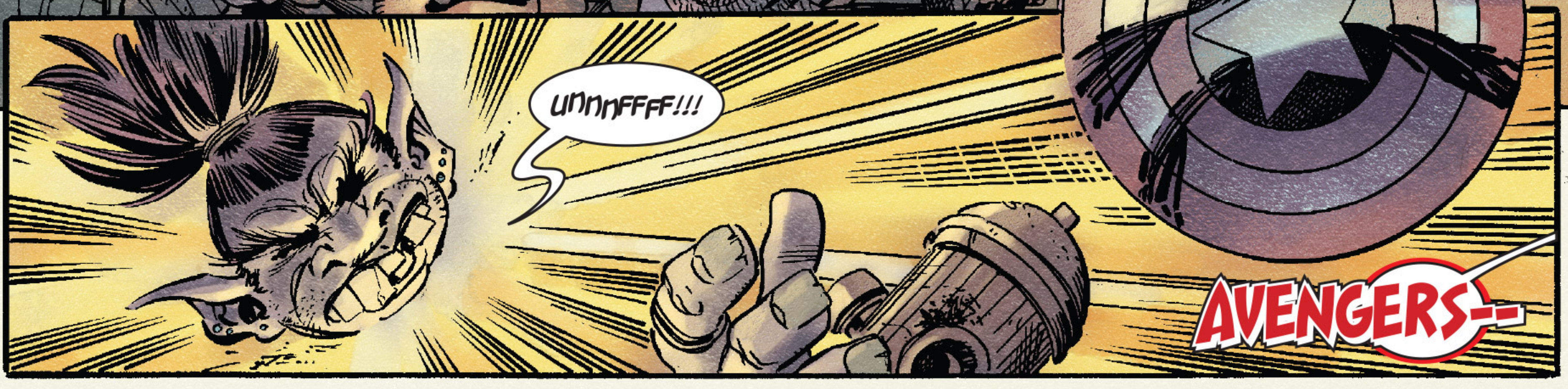


"AND BY EVENING, HIS MIND IS ONLY ON RETURNING TO CAMP."



WHATTAYA SAY? WANNA CALL IT A NIGHT?

YEAH, THAT'S NOT A BAD ID--



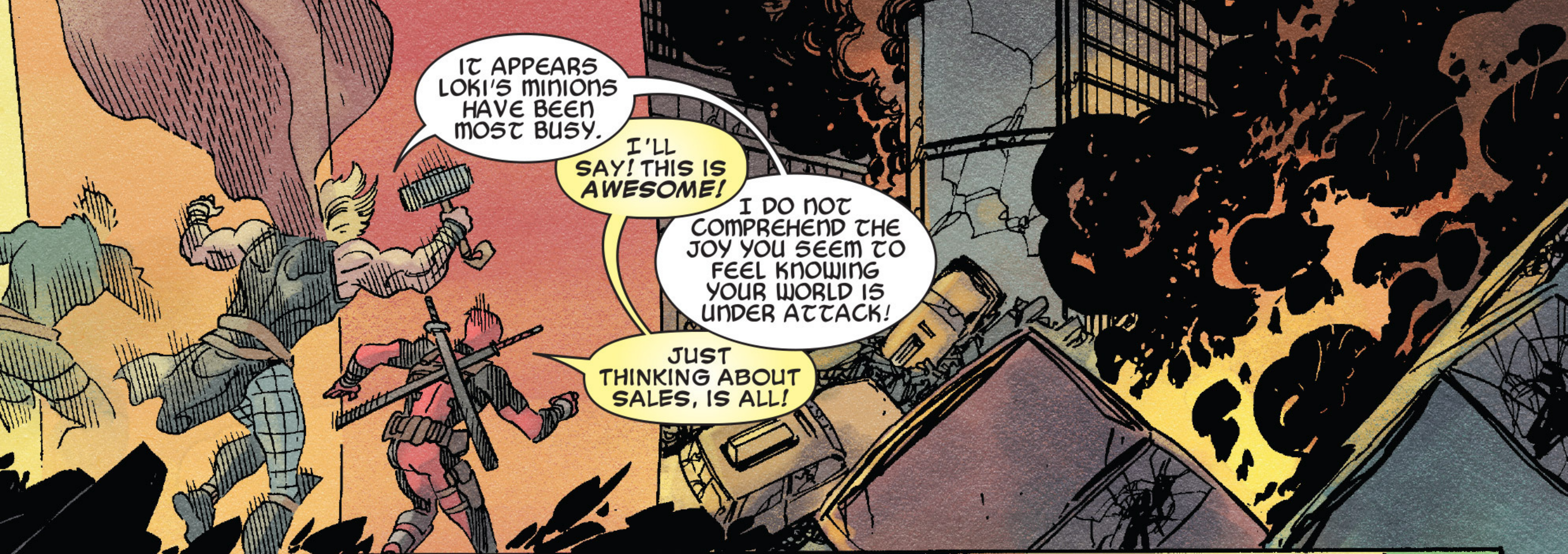
UNNNFFFF!!!

AVENGERS--



"A CLEVER GENERAL AVOIDS
AN ARMY WHEN IT'S KEEN,
BUT ATTACKS WHEN IT IS
SLUGGISH."

"THIS IS THE
ART OF STUDYING
MOODS."

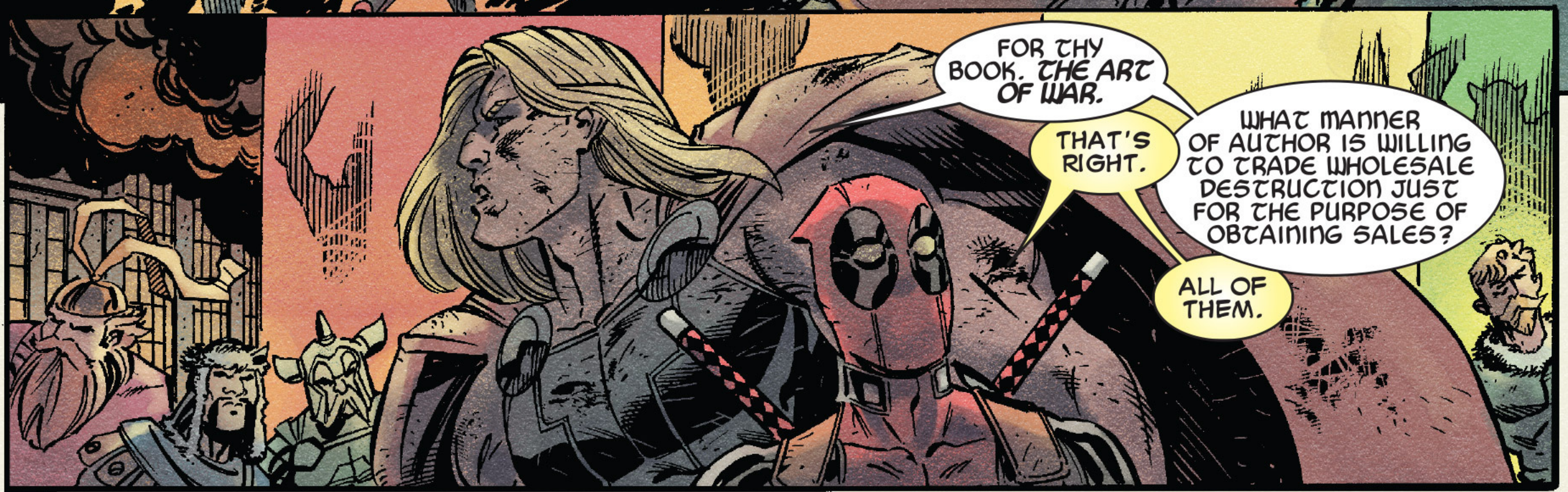


IT APPEARS
LOKI'S MINIONS
HAVE BEEN
MOST BUSY.

I'LL
SAY! THIS IS
AWESOME!

I DO NOT
COMPREHEND THE
JOY YOU SEEM TO
FEEL KNOWING
YOUR WORLD IS
UNDER ATTACK!

JUST
THINKING ABOUT
SALES, IS ALL!



FOR THY
BOOK. *THE ART
OF WAR.*

THAT'S
RIGHT.

WHAT MANNER
OF AUTHOR IS WILLING
TO TRADE WHOLESAL
DESTRUCTION JUST
FOR THE PURPOSE OF
OBTAINING SALES?

ALL OF
THEM.



SPREAD
OUT! FIND
LOKI'S MINIONS
AND DISPOSE
OF THEM!

I SHALL
ATTEND TO
MY BROTHER.



OOOO!
OOOO! WHAT
ABOUT ME?
WHAT DO
I DO?



STAY
OUT OF
THE WAY.

BUT--

AND REJOICE
THAT THOU ART
NOT WASTING AWAY
IN A DUNGEON BACK
ON ASGARD.



WELL, THIS
SUCKS.

"CHAPTER EIGHT: THE GENERAL WHO THOROUGHLY UNDERSTANDS THE ADVANTAGES THAT ACCOMPANY VARIATION OF TACTICS KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE HIS TROOPS."



THE WORLD APPEARS TO BE UNDER SIEGE. ASGARDIANS, FROM THE LOOK OF THEM.

THIS LEAVES US THE QUESTION OF: ON WHOSE SIDE DO WE BATTLE?



I CANNOT SAY I AM ENAMORED OF GODS DESCENDING UPON THE WORLD IN A TAKEOVER BID, DOOM.

EVEN IF THEY ARE YOUR GODS, SKULL?



PERHAPS THE GODS OF MY ANCESTORS, YES.

I, HOWEVER, DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THEM AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN DIMENSIONAL IRRITANTS.

WHAT REMEDY TO THE SITUATION DO YOU SUGGEST?

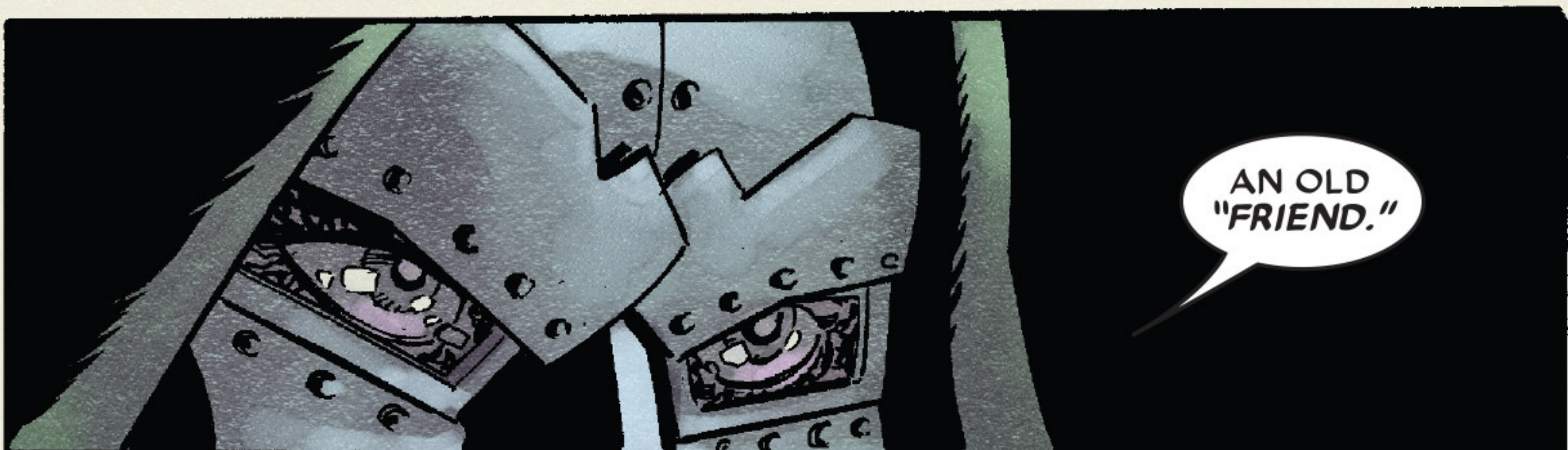
THERE IS ONLY ONE REMEDY, TRULY.



WE FIGHT BACK WITH EVERY RESOURCE AT OUR COMMAND.

I KNOW OF ONE WHO COULD BE MOST USEFUL.

AND WHO WOULD THAT BE?



AN OLD "FRIEND."







RAARRRR!



"THESE ARE THE FIVE
MAJOR SINS OF A
GENERAL THAT CAN
RUIN A WAR."

NO!
NO! KEEP
BACK!



NOOOO!!!



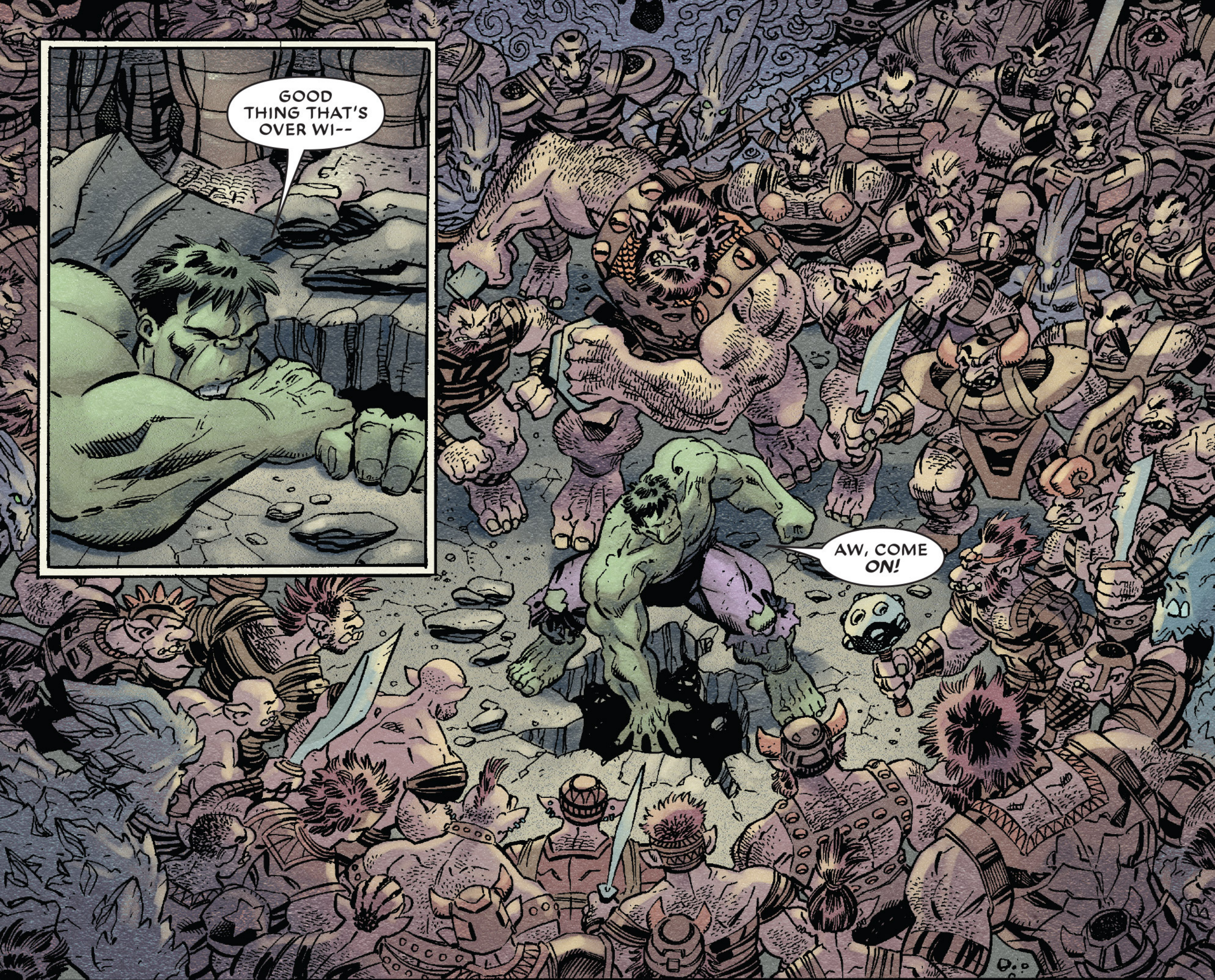
YOU'RE NOT
EVEN WORTH
MY TIME.

UNNNFFF!



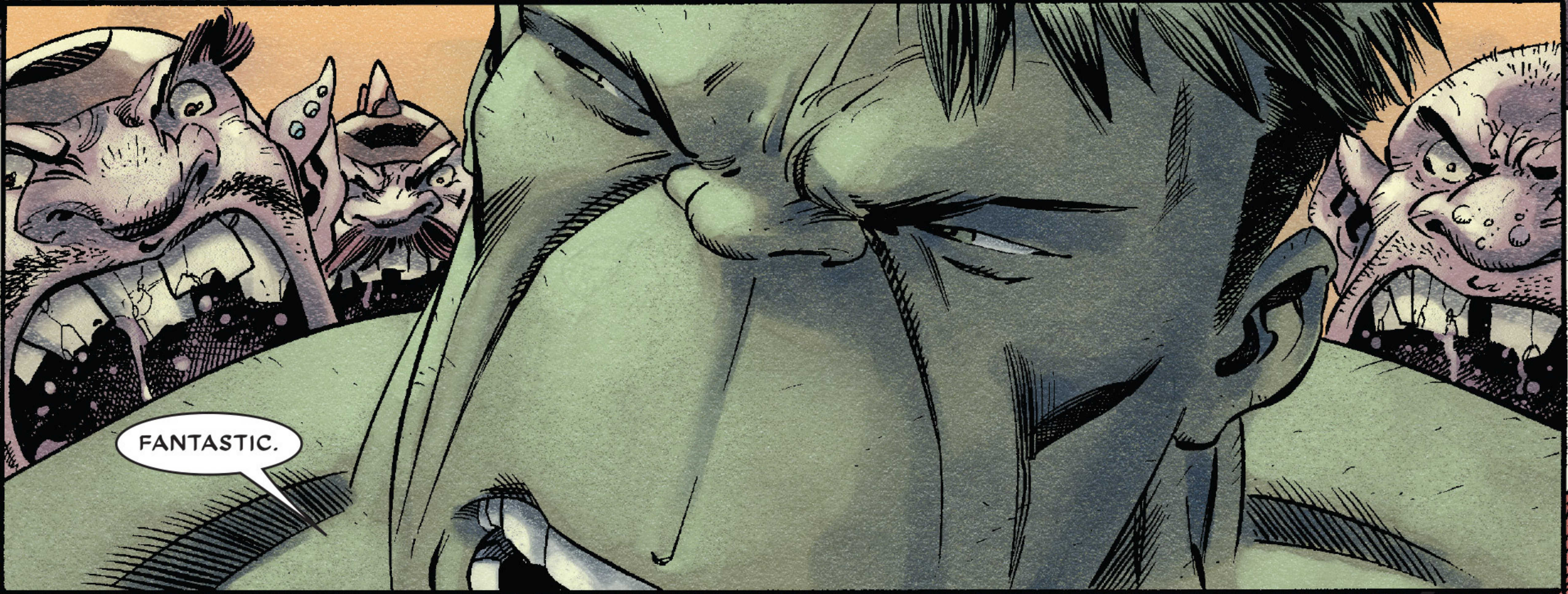
DON'T
BOTHER ME
AGAIN!

RIGHT.
NEVER AGAIN.
GOT IT.

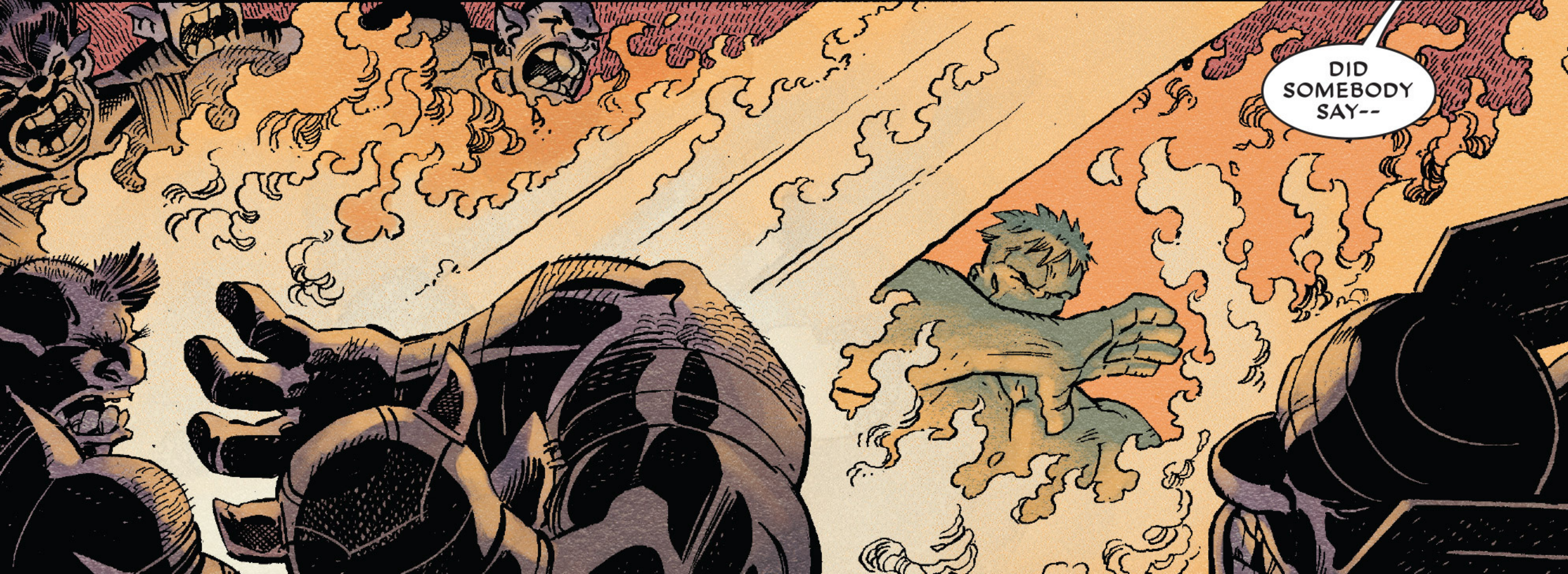


GOOD
THING THAT'S
OVER WI--

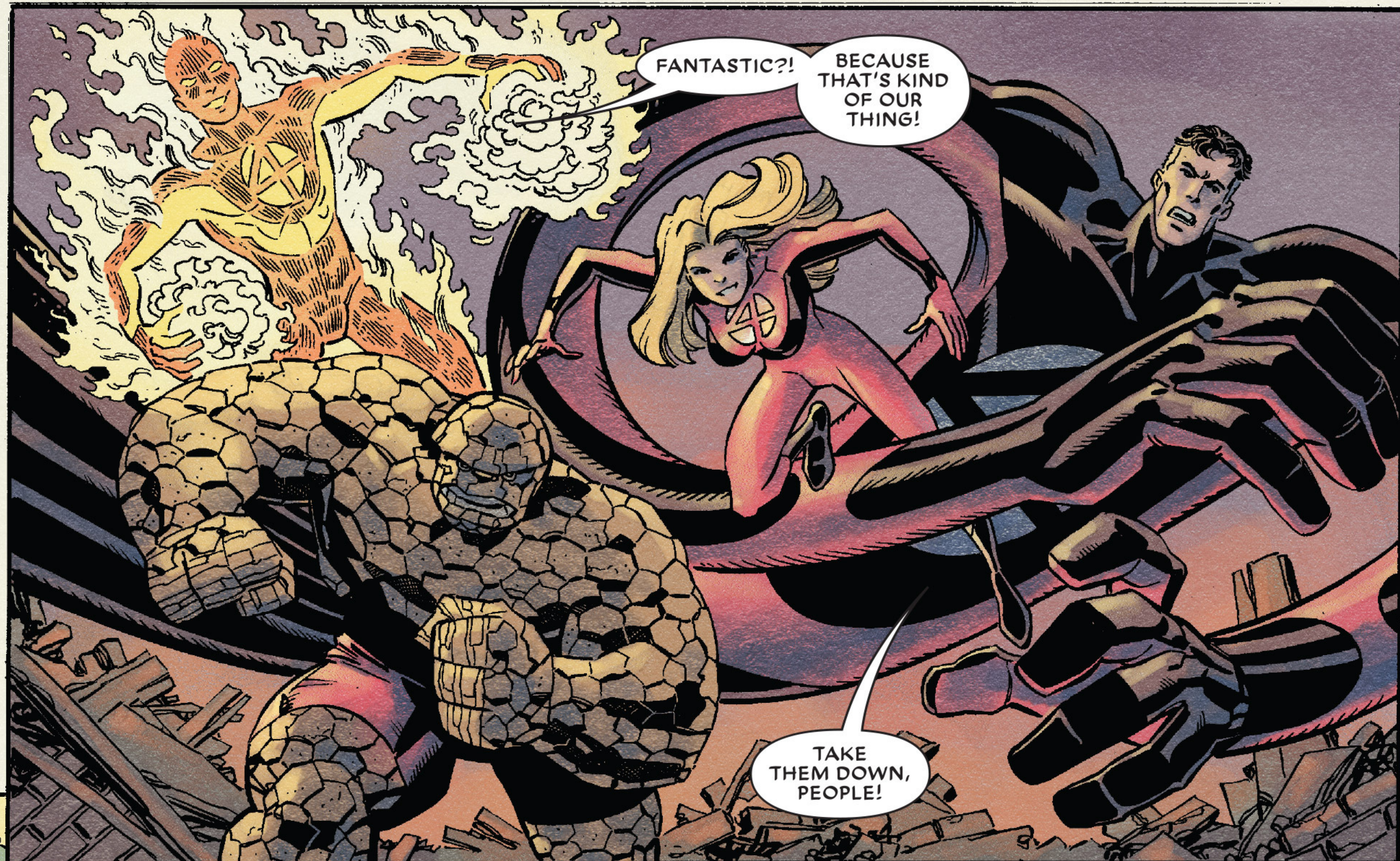
AW, COME
ON!



FANTASTIC.



DID
SOMEBODY
SAY--



"CHAPTER NINE: WE NOW
COME TO THE QUESTION
OF ENCAMPING AN ARMY,
AND OBSERVING SIGNS
OF THE ENEMY."

"AFTER CROSSING A
RIVER, YOU SHOULD
GET FAR AWAY
FROM IT."

IS THERE
SOMETHING...
MOVING UNDER
THERE?

"WHEN AN INVADING
FORCE CROSSES A
RIVER IN ITS MARCH..."

"...DO NOT ADVANCE
TO MEET IT IN MID-
STREAM."

WHAT
IN HELL IS
THAT?!

SO, DOOM
MAY BE A
VILLAIN RIGHT
ENOUGH...

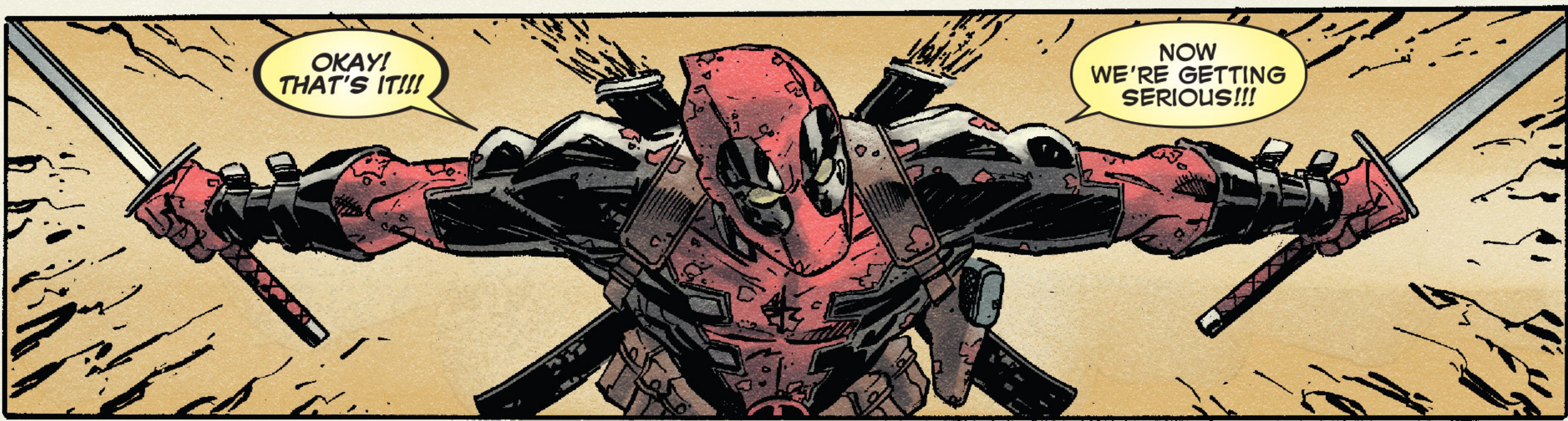
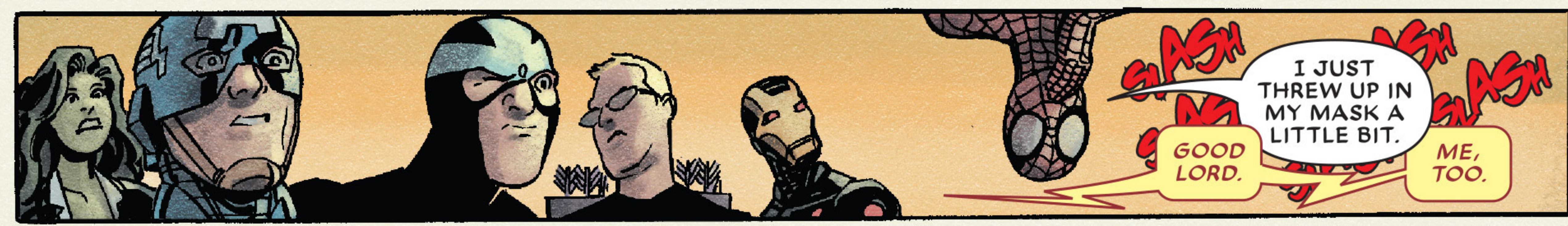
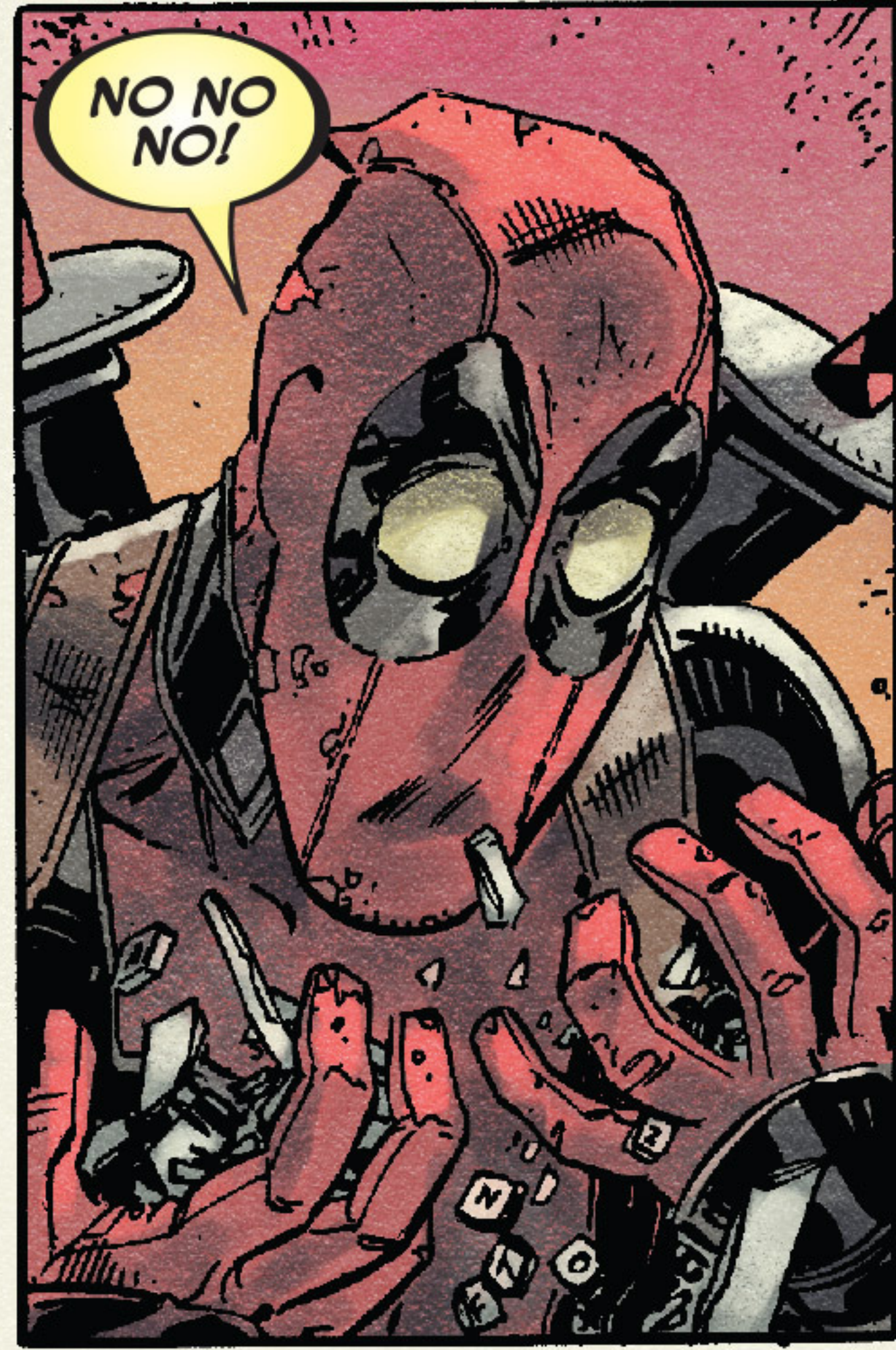
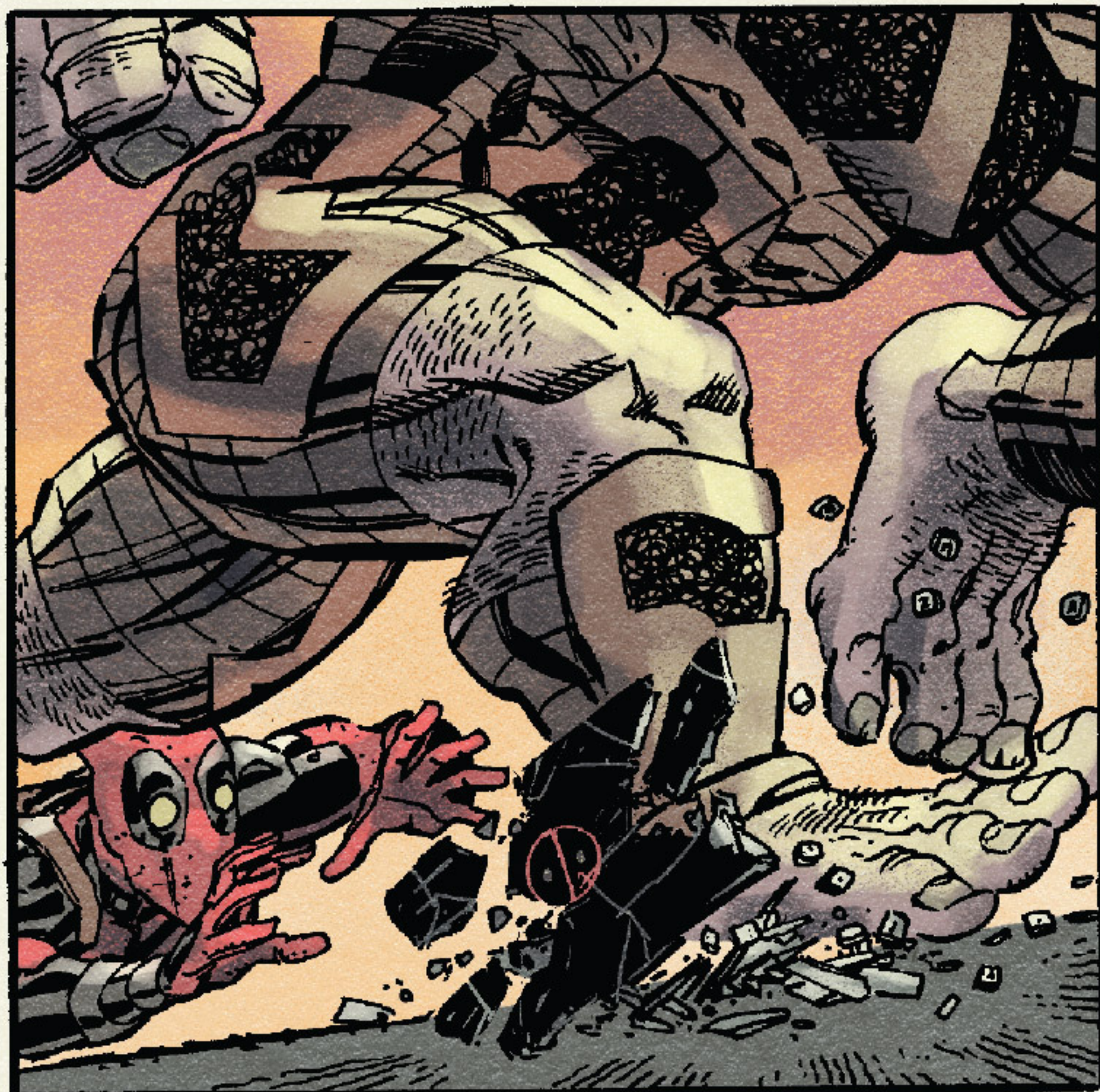
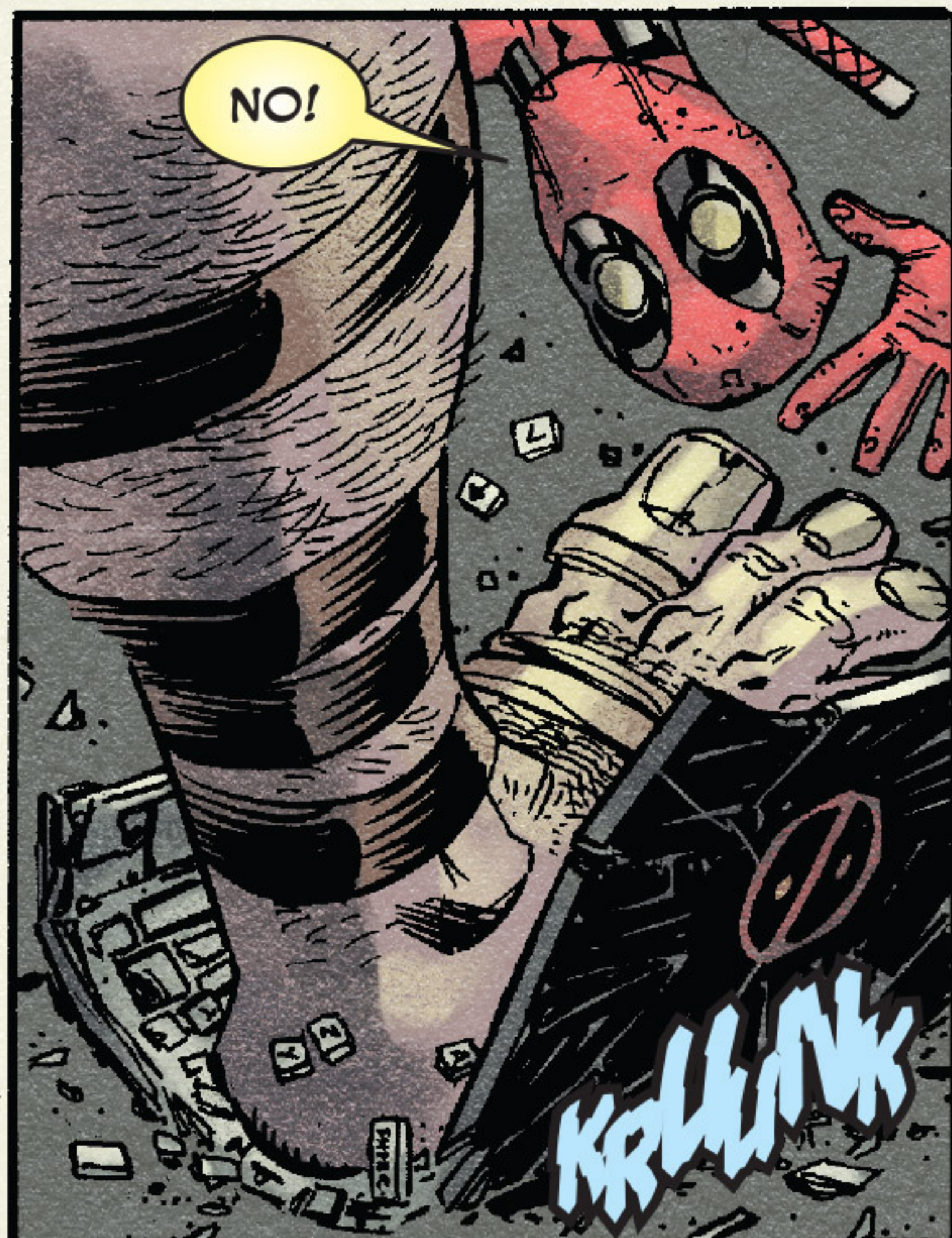
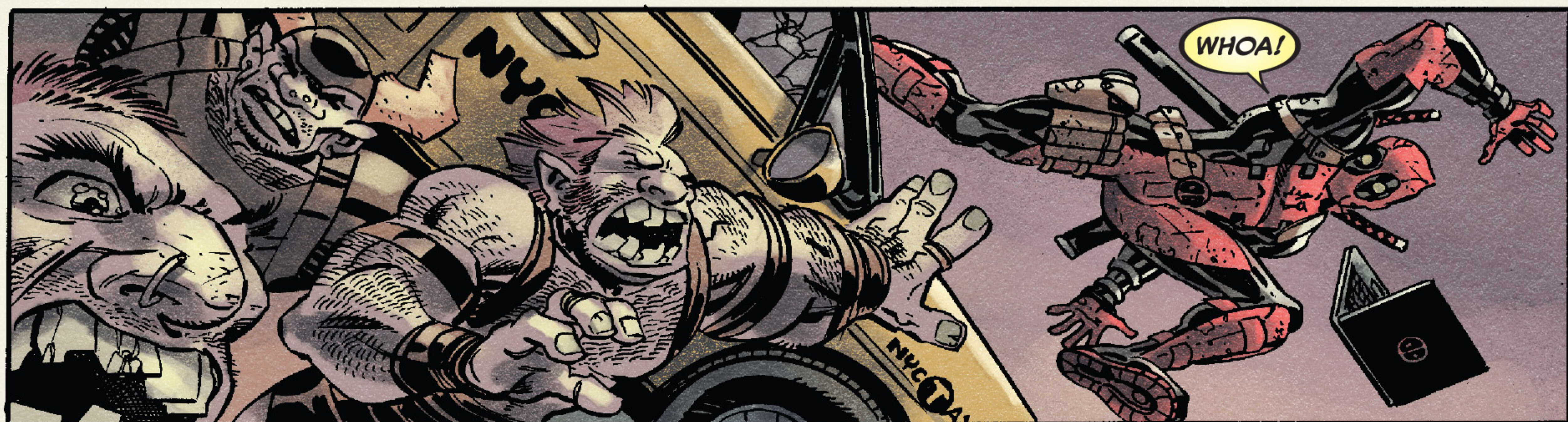
BUT HE
CERTAINLY HAD IT
CORRECT IN TELLING
NAMOR OF THE
WORLD'S CURRENT
CONDITION.

ONWARD,
MEN OF ATLANTIS!
IMPERIUS REX!

"IF A GENERAL SHOWS CONFIDENCE
IN HIS MEN BUT ALWAYS INSISTS
THAT HIS ORDERS BE OBEYED, THE
GAIN WILL BE MUTUAL."

THEY FLEE
OUR POWER.
FOLLOW THEM,
MY CREATURE,
WHERE'E'R THEY
MAY LEAD.

"IN CROSSING SALT MARSHES, YOUR SOLE CONCERN SHOULD BE TO--"



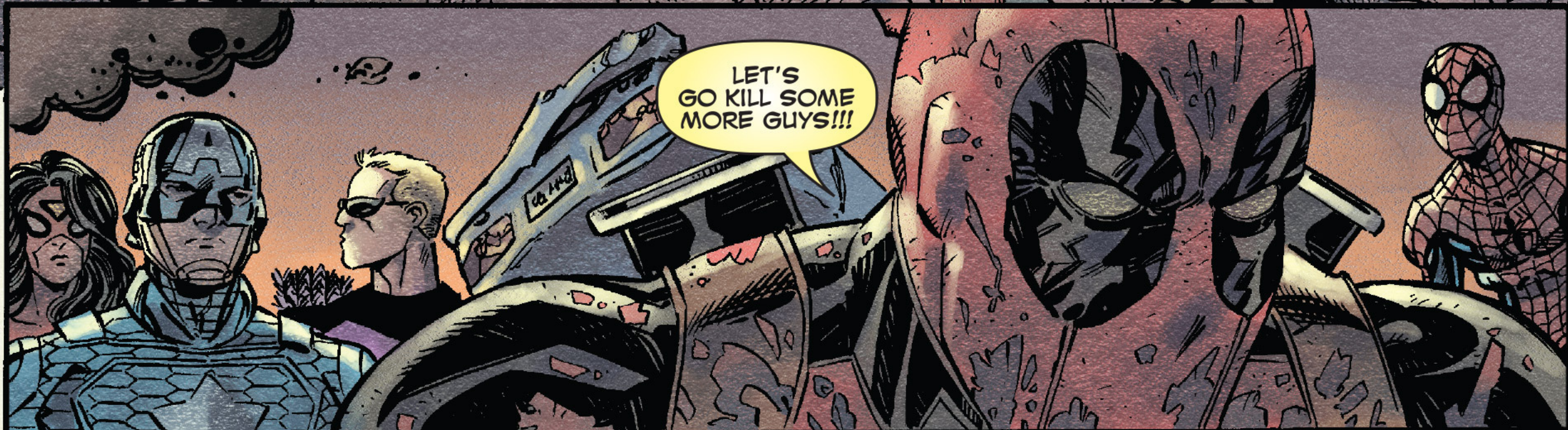


THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYBODY ELSE.

NOT HERE, IN ANY EVENT.

BUT I'M SURE WE CAN FIND OTHERS.

THEN WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR?



LET'S GO KILL SOME MORE GUYS!!!



THAT IS A VERY DANGEROUS PERSON.

OH, Y'THINK?!



TO BE CONTINUED...